

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Examiner rejected claims 15, 16, 18, 19, 23-25, 28, 29, 35 and 37 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,336,726 to DuBois. Examiner stated that while the final polymers taught by DuBois to be useful for forming sealants have terminal phenolic groups, DuBois is not limited to the final product. Examiner further stated that Applicant's claims 15, 16, 18, 19, 23-25, and 37 require nothing more than a single polymer, and thus the polymer in DuBois prior to removal of the silyl groups meets the claims. Examiner then alleged that such a polymer would be a "curable sealant composition" because the polymer would be curable and would have sealant properties under some conceivable circumstances. Additionally, Examiner stated claims 28, 29, and 35 are open-ended regarding additional process steps and do not require the final polymer to have any terminal silicon-containing groups. Finally, Examiner stated that claim 36 is allowed, and that claims 17, 20-22, 26, 27 and 30-34 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

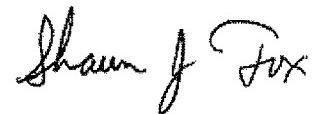
Applicants have amended claim 15 to incorporate the limitations of claims 20 and 21. Accordingly, claims 20 and 21 have been cancelled. Similarly, claim 28 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 32 and 33. Accordingly, claims 32 and 33 have been cancelled. Furthermore, claims 22 and 34 have been amended to make them dependent on pending claims. Finally, claims 36 and 37 have been cancelled. Applicants submit that these amendments overcome Examiner's rejections based on DuBois.

As for Examiner's statement that claims 28, 29, and 35 are open-ended regarding additional processing steps and do not recite that the final polymer is required to have any terminal silicon-containing groups, Applicant has amended claim 28 to require the polymer to have a terminal silicon-containing group.

Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Response and pass this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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